

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend ¶ [0013] as follows:

[0013] FIG. 2a and FIG. 2b illustrate detection of blood plasma β -catenin RNA from patients for colorectal adenoma using RT-PCR.

Please amend ¶ [0014] as follows:

[0014] FIG. 2c illustrates detection of blood plasma β -actin RNA from patients for colorectal adenoma using RT-PCR. FIG.2d and FIG.2e illustrate detection of plasma β -catenin and β -actin RNA from healthy individuals using RT-PCR.

Please delete ¶ [0015]:

~~[0015] FIG. 3a, FIG. 3b, FIG. 3c, FIG. 3d, and FIG. 3e illustrate detection of serum β -catenin DNA from patients with adenomas or carcinomas and normal controls.~~

Please amend ¶ [0031] as follows:

[0031] PCR analysis was first performed with serum DNA samples extracted from colorectal carcinoma patients. The results showed that a 359 bp band was observed in all 15 serum DNA samples (FIG. 3a, lanes 1 to 16). Ten patients were tested with confirmed adenoma ranging from mild to severe dysplasia. ~~[[P]]~~ A positive band was detected in 9 of 10 patients ~~(FIG. 3b, lanes 1-11)~~. The detection rate was 90%. The only negative case ~~(FIG. 3b, lane 8)~~ was amplifiable as it yielded positive 156 bp band after amplification with RET specific primers ~~(FIG. 3d, lower panel, lane 13)~~. PCR amplification of β -catenin was also performed on 10 healthy volunteer controls. None of the serum samples showed positive signals for β -catenin, while positive signals were clearly detected using RET specific primers (FIG. 3e, lanes 1 to 10;

~~& 1D, lanes 1-11~~). In addition, a known positive carcinoma serum sample was carried out in parallel and showed typical 359 bp band on the agarose gel (~~FIG. 3e, lane 11~~ data not shown). Lane 12 of FIG. 3e & FIG. 3d are the negative control for PCR reaction. These results demonstrate the ability of β -catenin to accurately detect colorectal carcinoma and adenoma.